

WRITING NEVER ARRIVES NAKED

Early Aboriginal writing in Australia

Penny van Toorn

DESCRIPTION

This enthralling new history of Aboriginal writing challenges conventional beliefs about how and when Indigenous authorship began.

Within a short time of settlement written texts were being exchanged as curiosities, and integrated into Indigenous graphic traditions and social life. Throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, Aboriginal people used writing in community newspapers, in letters to colonial governors, in individualised and subversive translations of the Bible, and in political documents such as the Coranderrk petitions. This writing involved a complex interplay of oral and literate traditions, which was attuned both to the strictures of traditional culture and the socio-political environment of the time.

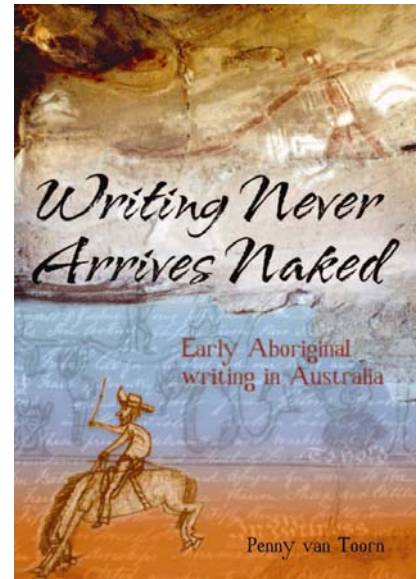
Writing Never Arrives Naked deals with real stories of how Indigenous Australians used writing and reading to negotiate a changing world, to challenge their oppressors, to preserve country and kin. It extends and deepens knowledge of Indigenous cultural and political history, while casting new light on present-day Indigenous literature and literacies.

AUTHOR

Penny van Toorn is a senior lecturer in Australian Literature and Australian Studies at the University of Sydney.

SELLING POINTS

- the first book on centring on pre-20th century Aboriginal writing
- provocative challenge to conventional beliefs about how and when Indigenous authorship began
- argues that Aboriginal individuals were able to practice literacy in accordance with their own traditional protocols of communication
- includes real stories of how Indigenous Australians used writing and reading to negotiate change.



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